

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 12/14/2009

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice-Chair; Gena Manalan, Treasurer; Sally Thompson, Secretary; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Jean Fleming, Director; Mike Gowing, Liaison from Board of Selectmen.

Absent: Stephen Baran; Barbara Willson; Connie Ingram, President, Friends of the COA; Detective Dan Silva, Liaison Police Department

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 PM on 12/14/2009 at the Senior Center.

Review of the Minutes- Sally Thompson

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 11/09/09 were accepted without amendment.

COA Chair Report- Barbara Tallone

Barbara Tallone reviewed information related to the Wellness University held at AB High School on November 14th, 2009. The observation was made that attendance appeared to be lower than prior years.

The BOS oversight meeting held November 16, 2009 at 8:15 pm was reported to have gone well. Barbara Tallone made an effective presentation with the support of a number of COA board members present as well as Jean Fleming.

Director's Report- Jean Fleming

Dec 3 - The Open House was well attended by COA board members. The weather was beautiful. There were a number of attendees and 6-7 new individuals were oriented. Jean plans to attach the next Open House to a luncheon to encourage better attendance.

Dec 10- The Holiday Tea was a nice event with good food and fellowship. It was well attended by COA board members and Friends of the COA who helped with the function. The musicians were enjoyable. Jean expressed her thanks to COA staff who are so vital to COA events.

Dec 15- The Holiday Dinner will be provided at the meal site by Minuteman. The event is filled to capacity with 68 people signed up in advance. There will be piano entertainment.

Holiday assistance- Carol Steiner and Laura Ducharme continue to provide assistance to individuals.

The Safety Net group meets at the Congregational Church monthly to talk about the most pressing needs for individuals.

The presentation to the BOS and Town Manager highlighted the restoration projects needing completion.

The windows in the entryway doors have been approved. And Jean has been told to look into the possibility of going forward with a partition.

The Computer lab has been set up in the corner of the dining room.

The Newsletter is a dual month production.

January 7- Denture care program by Dr. Chang

January 11, 25- Safe Driving program. This program is the 6 hour AAA drivers education program that is provided in 2 three hour sessions. There is no charge.

January 16- Real estate tax relief presentation

February and March- AARP Tax assistance twice per week by appointment

Treasurer Report – Gena Manalan

4th quarter report is will be delivered in January.

COA Board Member Term Limits- Gena Manalan

Gena Manalan presented a statement for the board to review as a warrant article to address staggering the term limits for COA board members. It reads below:

Town Meeting article to change the length of terms for the COA board members.

Terms - Each regular member shall be appointed for three (3) year over-lapping terms, except that in the first year of appointment, the Selectmen shall appoint three members for a term of one (1) year; three members for terms of two (2) years; and three members for terms of three (3) years. Thereafter, each member will be appointed for a full three (3) year term. The associate members will be appointed for a one (1) year term. If a full member must retire from the board before his term expires, an associate member will be selected to fulfill the vacated term.

Purpose:

The current appointment term for the COA board is 1 year. By changing the term length to 3 years and staggering the appointments, the nine member board will have members with varying degrees of board experience. This change will allow the more experienced members to assist new members, as well as provide better continuity of the board's activities. This change also makes the COA membership terms consistent with membership terms of other town boards, committees, and commissions.

Liaison to BOS- Mike Gowing

The Transportation Committee continues to meet regularly and to discuss the hiring of a coordinator in a 20 hour per week position. There is discussion of establishing a shuttle service to the train from an outlying parking lot. On demand transportation is being discussed as well. The schema includes the COA van as a 5 day/week van, the Roadrunner van as a 5 day/week van, and a 3rd van from the LRTA. The committee is

looking into additional grant applications. With Boxboro and Maynard expressing interest in developing public transportation, the possibility of regional transportation is raised.

Liaison to Friends of the COA

Connie Ingram was not in attendance. Jean Fleming reported that the Friends of the COA generated \$1500 in sales at their craft fair and had good success with sales of raffle tickets at the voting location.

Liaison to Healthy Communities-Health Department Group

Barbara Willson is not present. No report.

Liaison to the United Way- Paul Turner

Paul is continuing to explore a relationship between the COA and United Way.

Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services- Charlie Aaronson

Due to budget cuts there is a waiting list for individuals to get home health care. Subaru of Acton donated a car to Minuteman with \$1000 for expenses to deliver meals. There was a presentation on how to be an effective advocate by Al Norman. Charlie Aaronson plans to distill the notes from the presentation for COA board members

Old Business:

None for presentation.

New Business

After January, Barbara Tallone plans to review additional liaison committee memberships for new liaison positions. Charlie Aaronson and Barbara Tallone plan to look into available grants with interests that relate to seniors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is January 11, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary